

## Correspondence.

## ANALOGIES IN LANGUAGE AND ART.

Sir,—I think it would be well for all who, highly admiring fine art, express themselves as anxious to see originality in design, and, in fact, a new style in architecture, to consider the subject in an unprejudiced manner, and the great difficulty of producing an original style, which shall at the same time please the eye of taste and be adapted to the requirements of modern life.

Style in building appears to me to have in its rise and progress a great similarity to language; plain, simple, and unadorned amongst rude nations, and acquiring beauty, harmony, and splendour with the advance of civilization. As I am not equally well acquainted with the languages of nations as with their arts, it will not be possible for me to point out minute particulars, in which a relation exists between them, but we may fairly presume that the language of any people who used it, and it is generally admitted that the architecture of a nation has also the national character impressed upon it; there should therefore, I may say there must be some analogy between them.

As civilization advanced, and intercourse with other nations became frequent, the language of each people would require fresh words and fresh combinations of words, to express newly-formed ideas, new discoveries, and new relations between objects; new terms for fresh inventions must of course be added, and names once familiar would cease to be used, as we see in our own language many words denoting what were once familiar objects now words, as the objects themselves are things of the past; such were first-dogs, spinning-wheels, and such, I suppose, soon will be four-horse coaches; now this same course is run by the art of design, and in the same manner: as civilization advances and manners change, that which before pleased, no longer charms the eye of more enlightened man; old forms and new combinations throw the older into shade, and this change is gradual both in art and language. No violent transition, no sudden start from one point to another of this course, but the alteration is slow and gradual as the change of each individual from youth to age.

Language was the gift of God to man, and we must conclude that, not style indeed, but a taste and capacity for architecture were equally so; but as language varied with each climate, each locality presenting different objects to its inhabitants, so as to compel them to adapt their language to their habitation, inasmuch as the natives of the torrid zone could have no name for the productions of the frozen north, which probably for many generations remained unknown, and therefore words must be different in different lands, except where by chance the natives hit upon the same sound to express different objects, as the sailor found to his surprise when he heard the Frenchman call the cabbage a *chou* (*chou*), so in the same manner did climate and locality affect architecture, and as in language they produced different names, in architecture they produced different forms.

Now as each nation successively ceased to maintain an independent existence, its language and its art ceased to advance; in the state in which they then were they remained, that is as independent entities. Both their arts and language became blended with, and influenced those of succeeding races, but had no longer a separate existence. The Roman language and the Roman style influenced and left strong traces in the styles and languages of modern Europe, but mixed with and changed by those of other nations; and this mixture underwent continual change, and in architecture, gradually produced a style at once magnificent and well adapted to the manners of those who used it. But, unfortunately, as I think, this gradual change by which architectural style was always rendered conformable to the habits and customs of the nation, was suddenly interrupted by the revival of the old Roman system, which was adopted as implicitly as if our manners and wants had been the same as those of ancient Rome.

The difficulty of adapting this and the style of ancient Greece to modern buildings is continually felt, and the styles, as continually mutilated, fail to produce a good effect; just as we may suppose would have been the case with our language, if instead of continuing the use of a language, which by gradual change along with our changing manners, was always equally well adapted for our use, we had made a sudden transition to the use of the language of ancient Greece, or Rome. We should then have felt the same difficulty with our language as with our architecture. The classic styles in many cases certainly answer their purpose, and appear well adapted for particular buildings, as Greek and Latin answer for isolated inscriptions, or sonorous epitaphs, but cannot be generally applied. The

fronts of large structures show the rich decorations of classic art, as the heroic epitaph, and the learned folio display the beauties of Latin elegance, but the house intended for use, and not for show, presents us with the plain vulgate of brick and mortar unadorned, as the book for general perusal gives us merely our own simple English.

It appears to me that any style of any date adopted by us must fail in many respects, in general application, in consequence of our habits differing so greatly from those of ancient nations; even the Gothic style of four centuries ago would, in many cases, be found now very inappropriate, so that we should have difficulty in adapting it to present circumstances, and in yet preserving its identity, just as we should be unable to make use of any language which has not by the addition of terms, and combinations of words, become suited to our present requirements. I think, too, that it would be as difficult to invent a new and complete style of architecture, independent of any that has preceded us, as to produce a new and independent language; time alone can effect this for us in both cases, unless some master-mind, some mighty genius shall arise to give us at once that which in former cases has been the work of many minds and many years.

It is probable that out of the various styles now in use amongst us, some new one will be evolved gradually, as out of the heterogeneous collection of Celtic, Saxon, Danish, Norman, and Roman languages our present English has arisen, but with this chance against us, that necessity compels the amalgamation of languages, whilst taste alone effects that of styles of art.

We moderns have, however, a great advantage on which to congratulate ourselves, which is, that in consequence of the great variety of present styles, and the multifarious languages of this "babbling earth," we have so many more means of expressing our ideas and opinions.

Trusting that your patience will not be exhausted in reading this letter, I submit it to your judgment, with the hope that as I have already had to thank you for permitting me to express my ideas by means of your valuable journal, you will, if they merit with your approval, accord the same favour to my opinions.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, D.

## BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTSMEN.

Sir,—Having lately had my "leisure hours" very fully occupied, I was deprived of the accustomed pleasure afforded by a quiet uninterrupted perusal of THE BUILDER, until I fell several numbers in the rear. I have, however, just overtaken you; and amongst the variety of interesting matter abounding in these recent numbers, I find in two places in the Correspondence, pp. 425 and 448, reference made to the Association of Draftsmen, and in each case a recommendation to that body to advertise its rules and regulations. On turning to your advertising columns, your correspondents "Gratia Dei," "Ac," and "J. L. C." will see that their suggestion has been in some measure adopted.

The former of your correspondents is right in supposing that the association is intended to consist of members in all parts of the Kingdom. It has already members in various parts of England and Scotland.

I may take this opportunity to remark how gratifying it is to observe the unanimous approbation with which this society is noticed, a circumstance which promises well for its complete success, an expectation which, indeed, cannot fail to be realized, where so much care has been taken in the framework, wherein considerable modification has taken place since its institution, as suggested by experience. In reference to Mr. J. L. C.'s communication, we doubt not but his becoming a member would prove mutually advantageous. In regard to an annual exhibition, there is good reason to expect that our next anniversary one will be worthy public attention; the last, or *first*, offered a very fair prospect of such being the ultimate form which it would take, although we deemed it prudent merely to draw our way on that occasion. The subscription drawings are forming a most valuable fund for reference, such as few individuals could readily bring together; and, indeed, constitute an important feature in the Institution. Another, the helping of architects to assistants, and the latter to engagements, operates also advantageously, the applications for draughtsmen having been met so as to be generally satisfactory to both parties.

Trusting that eminent members of the profession will still further evince their approbation of a rising society, which has only such objects in view as to do to its honour.

I remain, Sir, yours very obediently,  
JAMES WYLDON, Hon. Sec.

## Tenders.

TENDERS delivered 14th November, 1843, for building school-house at Kilburn, from the design of C. Mills, Esq., architect, 15, St. James's-square:—

Geo. Bird .....	£24 10 0
Haynes and Co. ....	803 0 0
Hicks .....	768 0 0
Lock and Newham .....	764 0 0
Hernon and Son .....	750 0 0

The tenders were opened in the presence of the parties.

TENDERS for repairs at No. 20, Long Acre.—

Mr. Angell, Surveyor:—

Burstell and Son .....	£342
Matthews, Newman-street .....	350
Gomis, Castle-street .....	350

Opened in presence of the parties.

TENDERS for the decorations and repairs of the Egyptian Hall, Manchester:—

	Entered ending	Extra- charged ending
Taylor .....	£873	£450
G. Cooke .....	1,035	641
Le Crane .....	1,092	665
Beaufort .....	1,171	683
Sanders & Woolley .....	1,244	492
Piper .....	1,260	468
Bishop .....	1,336	601
Barton .....	1,785	340

A Correspondent suggests that the general dimensions of the Building would be useful in the case of comparing the amounts of contracts, and that those who furnish the lists of tenders would oblige many readers by adding such information.

## NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

Thirty fathoms of Deal ends, or 200 stacks of Scotch Fir Wood.—Union Workhouse, Isleworth. G. Clark, Clerk, New Bedford. November 21, 1843.

Laying down York Paving, with granite curbs also granite channelling and paving crossings; and likewise for Manumending the streets and roadways, parish of St. Pancras.—John Britton, 17, Burton-street, Burton Crescent.

BATHING OAK TIMBER, &c.—14,000 loads of balk, 5,000 loads of plank, 400,000 British Oak Trencils.—Secretary of the Admiralty, Somerset House. Dec. 19.

BOSTON CHURCH, LINCOLNSHIRE.—Repairs and restoration.—Mr. Scott, architect.—Messrs. White and Lindsay, Boston; J. T. White, Hon. Secretary. Nov. 27.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY TERMINUS, DOVER.—Mr. Lewis Cabell, 27, Great Russell-street; the Chairman and Directors, London Bridge. Nov. 29.

NEW MARKET AND ENTRANCES, CARMARTHEN.—Mr. Francis E. H. Fowler, architect, 105, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury; Town Clerk's Office, Carmarthen. Nov. 20.

ST. OLAV'S CHURCH.—Restoration.—Mr. George Allen, architect, 65, Tooley-street, South-west; George R. Corner, Vestry Clerk. Nov. 28.

Paint ingredients.—Navy Department, Dockyards. Secretary of the Admiralty, Somerset House. November 21.

COOKING APPARATUS for 800 inmates. Bermondsey Workhouse.—B. Drew, Clerk. November 21.

## COMPETITIONS.

District Surveyor for the metropolitan parishes of St. George-the-Martyr, and St. Andrew, Holborn, above the Bars, and the Liberty of the Rolls.—Testimonials to be sent in up to 30th December. Election next January Simmons.—C. H. Ellis, Clerk of the Peace.

Design for a testimonial to the late G. Clendinning, Esq., to be executed at Westport, at a price of 800 guineas.—Dr. Dillion, Infirmary, Castlebar, Mayo. 20 guineas. Jan. 1, 1844.

Premium of a gold medal or money for the best mode of cleaning streets.—March 1, 1844. J. N. G. Gutch, 20, Vere-street.

SEWER MAP AND APPOINTMENT.—Parish of Conoverbury, Devon, 2,200 acres.—Mr. John Elliott, Alabeg, in Totness. Nov. 20.

Earl of Leicester's Monument, at Husbam, cost 4,000 guineas.—R. N. Bacon, Hon. Secretary. Dec. 20.